



## Massachusetts Department of Public Health Summary of Health Disparities Grantees

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- **Action for Boston Community Development**  
Provide continuing education opportunities and practical training sites for racially and ethnically diverse, at-risk youth who are interested in pursuing health careers.
- **Greater Lawrence Family Health Center – Lawrence Latino Nursing Program**  
Improve access to quality health care for Latinos in the Merrimack Valley by preparing a diverse nursing workforce that is culturally competent and conscious of the needs of this population.
- **University of Massachusetts Lowell**  
Recruit under-represented minority and economically disadvantaged students into nursing program at UMass Lowell by partnering with the Graduate School of Education College Prep program, Lowell and Lawrence Middle and High Schools, and the Lawrence YMCA Teen Achievers Program.
- **Community Healthlink**  
Promote career ladders for mental health providers by providing a limited number of scholarships for employees of color to attend a Master's Degree program at one of the state colleges.
- **Baystate Medical Center**  
Prepare minority high school students in Springfield to successfully earn credit in an Advanced Placement (AP) Biology program by introducing students to a college curriculum with high academic standards and allowing them to earn college level credit while still in high school.
- **Brockton Neighborhood Health Center**  
Build on current workforce development activities, such as computer skills and interpreter training courses, to address barriers for racially and ethnically diverse entry level employees when they seek career advancement.

### SOCIAL DETERMINANTS

- **Boston Public Health Commission – Reach Us**  
Conduct a community health assessment, with the goal of improving community health services and reducing disparities for Black/African-American elders in Boston,

through conducting interviews and focus groups with providers at community health centers.

- **The Family Van**

Provide one-on-one health education and counseling to increase the health literacy of residents in Boston neighborhoods where the van offers services and increase awareness of the risk factors for chronic illness and provide support for clients.

- **Justice Resource Institute**

Train LGBT youth leaders of color to conduct a health assessment of the LGBT youth community, using online and in-person surveys, conducting focus groups of LGBT youth of color and service providers, conducting key stakeholder interviews, performing community mapping and event-based outreach.

- **Operation Bootstrap**

Demonstrate the effectiveness of community-based participatory communication strategies to teach Latinos with limited English proficiency and limited functional literacy about Health Care Reform and provide patients with tools to help improve communication with health care providers.

- **Healthy Malden, Inc.**

Conduct interviews with members of the community who work with Malden's Chinese population to assess the health needs of the population and disseminate results.

- **University of Massachusetts Lowell**

Ensure equal participation by racial and ethnic minorities in "Lowell Seniors Count," a comprehensive door-to-door census and health and well-being assessment of adults aged 60 and over in Lowell.

- **Spanish American Union**

Conduct awareness activities at community events, integrate of knowledge of Latino, African-American and Vietnamese culture into school and community events, and provide information on youth development, cultural interpretations, and issues of acculturation.

- **Caring Health Center**

Complete surveys on health beliefs, practices, and disparities with a sample of African-American, Latino and Vietnamese community members and track the chronic disease outcomes to develop recommendations for community members and health care providers using the data.

- **Cambridge Public Health Department - Men of Color Task Force**

Enhance the capacity of the MOCTF by recruiting new members from the African-American, Caribbean, Portuguese, Cape Verdean and African immigrant groups in Cambridge. Volunteer Health Advisors will serve as mentors in their communities to implement men's health education and screening events

- **MassAHEC Network – University of Massachusetts Medical School**

Build on resources and established connections of the MassAHEC Network's regional Centers and UMass AHEC office to offer health literacy awareness training and consultation to local health care providers and health professions training sites.

- **Lynn Community Health Center**

Hire a Community Health Worker to work with Latino patients with diabetes and other co-morbidities.

<b>QUALITY IMPROVEMENT</b>
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- **Codman Square Health Center**

Analyze whether African-American patients are receiving the recommended screenings and equitable care for colorectal cancer.

- **Dorchester House Multi-Service Center**

Gather data on colonoscopy rates among Vietnamese, Black, and Latino patients to increase completion of recommended colonoscopy screening.

- **Great Brook Valley Health Center**

Support the collection and analysis of data on diabetic Black, non-Hispanic African patients and design population specific interventions to address disparities.

- **Caring Health Center**

Update management information systems to create a "disparities dashboard."

- **Brockton Neighborhood Health Center**

Develop in-house capacity to design quality improvement reports based on specific patient needs to reduce health disparities

- **Cambridge Health Alliance**

Use diabetes as a case study for how an analytical model for looking at disparities can be used at CHA and pilot disparities reduction interventions at two ambulatory sites.

- **Outer Cape Health Services, Inc.**

Create curriculum with the aid of professional trainers on health disparities and cultural and linguistic sensitivity and competency. Train staff on implications of race, ethnicity and staff attitudes regarding health outcomes with a focus on understanding the health issues of the seasonal workforce and LGBT community.

- **Boston University School of Medicine- Boston Medical Center**

Coordinate quality improvement efforts to address health disparities through a newly created Center for Health Care Equity which will also examine issues across the hospital and set institutional priorities and policies for change.

<b>DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS</b>
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- **Boston Medical Center**

Support the Medical Legal Partnership for Children's (MLCP) Energy Clinic intervention to train pediatric primary care and sub-specialty care staff in screening and triaging food stamp and utility cases.

- **Vietnamese-American Civic Association**

Provide health education, promotion and outreach to the Vietnamese community in Dorchester through the provision and distribution of educational materials and connect residents with culturally and linguistically appropriate local health clinics and practitioners.

- **Health Quarters**

Hire a community coordinator to conduct *charlas* (neighborhood meetings) to enhance data-collecting opportunities aimed at identifying ongoing health concerns of local Latinas.

- **Great Brook Valley Health Center**

Develop a patient advocate curriculum on various topics related to navigating the health care system, such as making appointments and choosing a health care provider.

- **City of Worcester – Public Health Division**

Expand on the work of community coalitions to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in the city by convening the Worcester Partnership to End Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. and creating an Office to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities within the Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate city-wide activities

- **Tapestry Health**

Enhance services provided by *La Voz*, the agency division that provides HIV prevention and substance abuse treatment for Latino drug users in Springfield and Holyoke.

- **Manet Community Health Center**

Create two new positions of Staff Interpreter (Cantonese) and Translator (Access Interpreter) in order to provide linguistically appropriate care and services to the Asian communities in the South Shore.

- **YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts**

Create an initiative to educate low-income and uninsured African-American, Latino and Portuguese women in Southeastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod and the Islands about cancer and cardiovascular disease.

- **Brockton Neighborhood Health Center**

Conduct focus groups and surveys for the Cape Verdean and Haitian communities to identify and understand cultural approaches to health care and to improve providers' work to promote wellness and preventative health care.

- **Massachusetts Asian & Pacific Islanders for Health**

Create a community-based Asian research project that includes a needs assessment and facilitate community forums on key Asian health issues through outreach and launch focus groups to identify major areas of health concerns for Asians in the state.